

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /017 W
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R 051040Z FEB 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1612

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 0119

FOR CAGNE AND OIM/SAD

FOR GEORGE BECK

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: BEXP IZ

SUBJ: RAILROAD MISSION

REF: STATE 009750; 22104

1. SUMMARY; ALTHOUGH RAILROAD MISSION AS SUCH CANNOT RPT NOT COME TO IRAQ, INDIVIDUAL MISSION MEMBERS MAY WISH TO USE OCCASION TO MAKE CALLS ON IRAQI REPUBLICAN RAILWAYS, AN IMPORTANT CUSTOMER WHICH HAS BOUGHT LITTLE FROM U S IN RECENT YEARS. END SUMMARY.

2. COMMATT INFORMED NEW ASST DIR GEN (ADG) OF IRAQI REPUBLICAN AILWAYS (IRR) FEB 5 THAT MISSION WILL BE IN AREA AND THAT INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS MIGHT WISH TO TAKE OCCASION VISIT IRR. AT SUGGESTION ADG, USINT SENDING LETTER TO MIN OF TRANSPORTATION ALERTING IT TO FACT THAT OFFICIALS OF NUMBER OF U S FIRMS WITH EXPERTISE IN RAILROAD EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY WILL BE IN SYRIA MAR 7-10 AND SOME WILL PROBABLY WISH TO CALL ON IRR THEREAFTER.
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IRR APPEARS READY TO RECEIVE MISSION INDIVIDUALS QUA INDIV-

IDUALS, I.E. WITH NO GROUP MEETINGS BUT WITH EACH BUSINESS-MAN TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH WHATEVER DEPT OF IRR HE WISHES.

3. ADG SAID HE ASSUMED ANY MISSION MEMBERS INTENDING TO VISIT BAGHDAD HAD ALREADY RECEIVED THEIR VISAS IN WASHINGTON. IT WAS NOT RPT NOT IRR'S PRACTICE, HE ADDED, TO SUPPORT FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN'S APPLICATIONS FOR VISAS UNLESS THEIR FIRM WAS ALREADY WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO IRR ON BASIS OF PREVIOUS CORRESPONDENCE.

4. WISH TO STRESS THAT BAGHDAD HOTEL SITUATION EXTREMELY TIGHT AND ROOMS MAY HAVE TO BE SHARED. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP NAMES, VISA STATUS AND DATES OF ARRIVAL OF MISSION MEMBERS PLANNING VISIT IRAQ AND INDICATE IRR DEPARTMENTS THEY WISH TO CONTACT. THEY SHOULD ALSO CABLE ASAP THEIR PROPOSALS DIRECTLY TO DIR GEN, IRAQI REPUBLICAN RAILWAYS, BAGHDAD, IRAQ. CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD NOT RPT NOT MENTION ANY IRR OFFICIAL BY NAME IN ACCORDANCE WITH NORMAL GOI PROTOCOL.

5. REQ ADVANCEMAN BECK ARRANGE TO AIR POUCH 50 MISSION BROCHURES TO USINT.

6. USINT LOOKS FORWARD TO SEEING INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS, INCLUDING DIR BOUDREAU. IMPORTANT FOR DIR AND INDIVIDUALS TO REMEMBER THAT MISSION PER SE IS NOT RPT NOT OFFICIALLY AUTHORIZED BY GOI TO VISIT IRAQ AND THAT LOCAL PUBLICITY MUST AND WILL BE NIL. NONETHELESS, VISIT BY INDIVIDUAL BUSINESSMAN AT THIS TIME COULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL IN SELLING TO IMPORTANT CUSTOMER WHICH HAS MADE FEW PURCHASES FROM U S IN RECENT YEARS.
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